Andrew Wilkie MP
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR DENISON

14 MAR 2017

Commissioner Darren Hine APM
Tasmania Police
GPO Box 308
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Commissioner

I am writing to urge Tasmania Police to reopen the 1973 investigation into the allegations the Hon Kevin Lyons was bribed to bring about the fall of the Bethune Liberal Government.

Serious unanswered questions surrounding the investigation have been raised in James Boyce's new book *Losing Streak: How Tasmania was gamed by the Gambling Industry*. Indeed allegations remain that Federal Group's monopoly casino licence is a result of wrongdoing, and unless the investigation is reopened a stench will surround this whole affair.

Mr Boyce's book quotes the 1973 police report into allegations that Mr Lyons was bribed by British Tobacco and given incentives by Federal Hotels to resign from Parliament, thereby bringing down the Bethune Liberal Government and reinstalling the Reece Labor Government.

There are a number of anomalies which, in my opinion, remain unexplained by the original investigation – for example, the circumstances surrounding the loan of $1,000 to Mr Lyons by Federal Hotels; the $25,000 advance from British Tobacco for his memoirs that were never published; the purchase of his land by a company owned by Tasmanian bookmakers; and the awarding of a lucrative contract to his public relations company by Federal Hotels. There are also, in my opinion, unanswered questions about why some people at the time were so desperate to stop a full inquiry.

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A reasonable person might conclude, not just in hindsight but at the time, that there are many unanswered questions surrounding the investigation.

As Commissioner you have refused permission for the release of further supplementary material relevant to the investigation on the basis that "no offences were detected" and "some of the individuals interviewed by the investigating officers … are still active in the Tasmanian community". I urge you to reconsider. I would argue the fact that certain players are still "active in the community" is actually a reason to release the material. Only full transparency and a review will ensure public confidence in this investigation into a monumental moment in Tasmania's political history that still has consequences today.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Wilkie MP
Independent Member for Denison